

Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to read through and view the materials for the Property Vision Team's first Session. This is the first of many sessions we will be hosting this year to share information, explore possibilities and listen to your comments, thoughts, and ideas.

UPC's property consist of all the land and buildings from 22nd Street to 23rd Street along San Antonio Street. UPC has an opportunity to consider the future of our property and how we can either opt to be proactive or become reactive as to the direction our property moves in the future. We also need to be mindful that there are costs and risks associated with any direction or non-direction we take. At one end of the spectrum, there is "do nothing" and remain exactly how we are. We will have costs to upkeep our aging building and our parking may not be secured for our future. We may also risk missing an opportunity to do something that would be beneficial for our church and community. At the other end of this spectrum is to sell all our property and move our church to a new location. Obviously, the costs to move and rebuild would be significant and we can only imagine the risks involved with such a move. And then there is all the in between that could be long-term leases, partial sale of property, building new, renovating the old, moving spaces around and all the many ideas that you will think up!

It is hoped that by ushering these conversations regarding the entirety of our property over the course of this next year, we will all learn, grow, be enlightened, and feel the presence of God as we discern our future in our ever-growing and urbanizing neighborhood.

Storytelling

One of the ways we would like to learn more information from you is by "storytelling". This could be in the form of a written story or utilizing words to express images, memories and/or emotions. We would like to hear what resonates with you when you think about our church property/space. You can submit your story via email to UPCpropertyvisionteam@gmail.com or you may send your story to the church at 2203 San Antonio Street, Austin, TX 78705 Attn: Property Vision Team.

UT Architect Student's Presentations

This past summer, UPC had an opportunity to work with Professor Nichole Wiedemann in the UT Architect Department after offering up UPC as a "project site" for UT students to engage in a hypothetical client/property. There was an interest at UPC as to how students would imagine our space as we look to serve students and our community. In a graduate/senior program, Professor Wiedemann's students have been utilizing UPC's property as a learning place to image and develop their architectural skills. Twelve students are participating in nine projects that imagine the possibilities of our property. The architect students have learned and gathered information to explore innovative ideas with UPC's space through student surveys, a multitude of lectures from Project Connect to Parks & Rec to developers to a varied number of architects specializing in church, high-rise, and student housing projects. They have had the opportunity to hear from PR firms and several UT professors, including a historical preservationist. The student's works will be offered in models, renderings, and explanations to our congregation during the month of January in the Fellowship Hall. We will be providing more information in early January and hope that you can stop by and checkout the imaginative works of the students. The Property Vision Team will be putting together a video of the student's work that can be accessed for those members who are not able to view this work in person.